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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

3 April 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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SUBJECT : M-2, [redacted] Committee

1. A committee was established by National Reconnaissance Office to recommend a 6' resolution satellite reconnaissance system. The committee consists of:

Colonel King, Chairman

Colonels Howard and Sides, NRO

Messrs. Kiefer and [redacted] OSA; [redacted] NPIC

Colonels Berg, Heron, [redacted] (recorder) and

[redacted] SSD

[redacted] Aerospace

[redacted] Rand (unable to attend)

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2. The first meeting was held Monday, 25 March, with an introduction by General Greer, and with Colonel Berg acting chairman. During the subsequent two weeks, presentations were made by SSD, LMSC, Itek, GE, EK, and Aerospace on 201, M, M-2, Agena, GE reconnaissance vehicle, E-6 camera and advanced versions, Atlas/TAT boosters, and future developments.

3. The M-2 proposal remains as we have seen it; EK expect to reach about [redacted] in E-6 (called C-375). By recoating mirrors in four existing E-6 cameras, T stop number is expected to improve significantly.

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4. Itek have completed lens design and are proceeding to make one lens and have built a film transport mock-up.

5. GE propose a 45" diameter MK 8 capsule to replace the present 33" MK5A.

6. LMSC have a menu of Agena improvements as we have seen. The hydrazine fuel situation is quite beclouded on basis of cost, toxicity, and actual realizable thrust gains.

7. The TAT could grow into Atlas class by use of bigger solids (Minuteman), but would then cost more than Atlas.

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3. An expression of opinion was required by Colonel King on Thursday, 4 April, from all hands. Two days of heated discussion produced majority (not unanimous) opinion on:

- a. Reactivate [redacted] to limited extent
- b. Start M-2 program
- c. Start C-375 program
- d. Start MK-8 capsule
- e. Examine Atlas vs TAT
- f. Keep M going (unanimous here)
- g. How to manage program (tabled)

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9. The undersigned has asked for reexamination of costs between equal numbers of MJ launches and [redacted] launches (reported as [redacted] for six each) and for statement of value of improved scale of [redacted] over M since lens quality and focal lengths make ground resolutions between these two quite comparable under similar conditions.

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10. A preliminary report to General Greer is scheduled Tuesday, 9 April. A further note will be written following that by the undersigned.

SIGNED

EUGENE P. KIEFER
Technical Analysis and Evaluation Staff
(Special Activities)

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Eugene P. Kiefer:TAES/OSA [redacted] (8 April 1963)

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